



WONDERFUL ON TAP



Paul Hickey
Managing Director
RAPID
Centre City Tower
7 Hill Street
Birmingham B5 4UA

06 July 2023

**Upper Derwent Valley Reservoir Expansion (UDVRE) Strategic Resource Options (SRO)
Proposal for working towards Gate 2**

Dear Paul

At our regular liaison meeting on 18 May 2023, RAPID explained the concerns with the shortlisted options for provision of additional water storage in the Upper Derwent Valley (UDV). These focused on the potential environmental impacts on significant areas of designated sites (requiring derogation under the Habitats Regulations) and heritage sites, plus the objections expressed by key stakeholders, most notably the Environment Agency, Natural England and the National Trust. This concluded with RAPID stating they could no longer support the shortlisted reservoir options.

Through the extensive engagement carried out so far, Severn Trent Water and Yorkshire Water were aware of the key stakeholders' concerns. Due to these we have already commenced investigations on alternative options in the UDV that might not have the environmental impact requiring derogation. On this basis, RAPID suggested that we reflect on their comments and consider if a delay to the Gate 2 programme date would be beneficial for progression of the SRO.

Having reflected on RAPID's suggestions and the changing need, we propose that the Gate Two programme is revised once each companies' Water Resources Management Plans (WRMPs) and corresponding Regional Plans, have been finalised. This will ensure there is greater clarity and confidence in the need for, and timing of, any alternative solutions in the UDV. We therefore propose that the Gate 2 date of 17 July 2023 is postponed and a revised Gate 2 date agreed when the needs are confirmed in the companies' final WRMPs.

We also expressed our desire to continue with certain elements of the project to better inform any decision making and to avoid loss of value on work completed to date. As agreed at our liaison meeting, we will review the work that is currently ongoing and planned future activity and work with your teams over the coming weeks to agree a way forward. At the time of making our Gate 2



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submission we will publish all work done to date, even if it is not part of the recommended solution. This will ensure an open and transparent conclusion.

In summary, we request agreement to delay the Gate 2 submission date from 17th July 2023 and to agree a new date once the WRMP process is complete.

We look forward to hearing from you on your decision and please contact us should you have any queries.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B Stear".

Bob Stear
Head of Strategic Resource Options

On behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C Offer".

Chris Offer
Director

On behalf of Yorkshire Water Ltd